

Message Text

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ACTION FBO-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 A-01 ABF-01 /017 W

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R 021244Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7855

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 4418

FOLNG SENT NEW DELHI FM BOMBAY DTD APR 2.

QUOTE: BOMBAY 0804

EMO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, IN

SUBJECT: GENERATOR AIR FREIGHT PAYMENT

REF: BOMBAY 772

1. WE SAW THAREJA APRIL 1 AS SCHECULED BUT, REGRETFULLY, HAVE LITTLE HOPEFUL TO REPORT FROM OUR MEETING.
2. ON THE CONVERTIBILITY OF RS 121,566 DEDUCTED FOR EXPENESES IN INDIA, THAREJA SAID THAT IF IT CAN BE ESTABLISHED THAT THIS AMOUNT OF MONEY HAD IN FACT BEEN BROUGHT INTO INDIA AND USED FOR EXPENSES HERE, THE RBI WOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO ADDING THIS AMOUNT TO THAT TO BE REMITTED. LOCAL EXPENSES HAD TO BE COVERED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, AND THE AMOUNT OF RS 121,566 IN EFFECT COULD HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED. HE DID NOT CLOSE THE DOOR ON THIS ENTIRELY, BUT WE WOULD CAUTION AGAINST ANY UNDUE OPTISISM THAT THE RS 121,566 HAS MUCH CHANCE OF BEING CONVERTED.
3. ON THE REMAINING 5 LAKHS, THAREJA INSISTED THAT THE "FINAL DECISION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN" AND SUGGESTED THAT EMBOFFS TALK TO BAIJAL IN "ONE WEEK" WHEN BAIJAL'S "DECISION WILL HAVE BEEN FINALIZED". WE COUNTERED THAT EMBOFFS THOUGHT BAIJAL HAD ALREADY MADE UP HIS MIND AND HAD DEFINITE IMPRESSION CASE RESTED WITH RBI. THAREJA REPEATED THAT

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EMBOFFS SHOULD TALK TO BAIJAL "IN ONE WEEK" WHICH HE

FINALLY DEFINED AS APRIL 8. (WE NEVER QUITE UNDERSTOOD THE
"ONE WEEK" BUT HE REPEATED IT SEVERAL TIMES.)

4. WHEN WE TRIED TO PIN THAREJA DOWN FURTHER, HE ADMITTED
THAT "WHEN BAIJAL GIVES HIS DECISION, THE RBI WILL APPROVE
THAT DESISION" AND COMMUNICATE IT TO US. WE ASKED HIM HOW
THE CASE LOOKED AT THIS TIME, AND HE REPLIED THAT IT IS
"IMPOSSIBLE" TO SAY, REPEATING THAT HE MUST AWAIT WORD
FROM BAIJAL.
BANE UNQUOTE.
SAXBE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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